



WW II & Beyond Symposium "Courage in the First Person"

Florida Gulf Coast University
January 29, 2009



Patriotic Music and National Anthem

Moderator

Anatole Kurdsjuk

Author of The Long Walk Home with Miracles Along the Way.

Anatole is a retired United States Air Force officer and survivor of a Nazi labor camp.
His books will be available before and after the event.

Welcome

Wilson G. Bradshaw, Ph.D.

President, Florida Gulf Coast University

Presentations

- J. Marvin Stoner:** Infantry Soldier in the 8th Infantry Division in combat from January 1945 to the end of the war. He was a member of those who helped liberate a concentration camp and present during the burial ceremony in Ludwigslut, Germany.
- Raymond M. Carlson:** One of the "Battered Bastards of Bastogne", he is one of the men of the 101st Airborne Division also known as Screaming Eagles.
- Rudy Froeschle:** Army Air Corp co-pilot, 384 BG 544 BS 8th AF. Rudy was held in several camps; Dulag Luft, Stalad Luft III and Stalaf VIIA and received honors to include the Purple Heart medal, Prisoner of War Medal, European, African and Middle Eastern Campaign.
- Chester J. Butcher:** Brig. General Chester J. Butcher USAF, Retired, has served in numerous positions and war times to include: WWII in the 355th Fighter Group, in addition served in 1951, Chief, Fighter Branch, Directorate of Research and Development; 1965-1968, Commander of the 3560th Pilot Training wing; 1969, command of the Task Force Alpha (TFA), Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai AFB, Thailand; in 1970, Deputy Commander of the Fifth Allied Tactical Air Force (5 ATAF). He was promoted to the grade of Brigadier General in 1967 – retired in 1974.
- Open Mic:** Roy Wilhelmi
- Jim Devoss:** 1/Lt, USAF (Ret.) served during Vietnam as F-105 Thunderchief Strike Pilot at Takhi RTAFB from January to June 1969. Jim was shot down on his 71st mission and will be talking of an amazing recovery from that experience. Included in his presentation will be the showing of the Air Force documentary, "Faces of Rescue". That film is based on his rescue and documents Air Rescue and Recovery Operations in SouthEast Asia during that conflict.